

Urban Women Against Substance Abuse (UWASA)

Brief Program Description

Urban Women Against Substance Abuse (UWASA) is a school-based program that targets Puerto Rican, Latina, and African- and Caribbean-American girls, and their female caregivers. UWASA is theoretically grounded in social learning theory demonstrating the connection between identified risk indicators—juvenile drug abuse violations, high school dropouts, teen birth rate, sexual abuse referrals—and the primary protective factors identified as cultural and community leadership by female adults. A central feature of UWASA is a self-development curriculum that teaches girls to build cultural and gender identity, ATID knowledge, HIV awareness, and career options. The program targets risk and protective factors using three principal components: (1) the "Empowered Voices: A Participatory Action Research Curriculum for Girls"; (2) an after-school program; and (3) a mother's component. Evaluations of UWASA revealed the success of this program in achieving a positive and significant effect on HIV/AIDS knowledge. Furthermore, treatment girls appeared to maintain substance use attitudes as healthy as those observed at baseline after the intervention.

Contact Information

For indepth information on this program, please use the contact listed below.

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